(c) whether the N-programme by India is continuing or is at present slow?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The news report is not correct.

Telgu-Ganga Project

412. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps of which the Telgu-Ganga Project stands;

(b) the steps taken by Government to take up the project in right earnest so as to solve the water problem to Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the cost of this project and funds proposed to be shared by the State and Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The Telugu Ganga Project was techno-economically examined and placed before the Advisory Committee in April, 1988. The Advisory Committee deferred consideration on the project due to non-resolution of the interstate issues. The project has, however, been cleared by the Ministry of Environment & Forests from environmental and forests angles in September, 1988 and October, 1988 respectively.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have scheduled release of 3 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) out of 15 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu for drinking water needs of Madras city by September, 1996.

(c) The latest estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1978 crores. An expenditure of Rs. 1034 crores has been incurred so far on the project. The Central Government does not provide any special assistance for the project. The Central assistance is in the form of block loans and grants not tied to any sector of development or the project. The cost of the project is shared by the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. The share of Tamil Nadu in the project's cost is to the extent of Rs. 521 crores.

Appearance of mysterious flight over villages in Uttar Pradesh

413. SHRI K.R. MALKANI:
SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a mysterious flight over Lakhimpur Kheri village, Uttar Pradesh on May 13-14, 1996;

(b) whether there was a huge blast in the DRDO High Energy Material Research Laboratory at Kanchanbagh, Hyderabad on May 30, 1996;

(c) if so, whether Government have investigated the above said incidents; and

(d) if so, the findings in all these serious incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) No, Sir. The local authorities had seen an IAF aircraft flying over Lakhimpur-Kheri area and presumed it was a foreign aircraft.

(b) to (d) An explosion occured in High Energy Material Research Laboratory at Hyderabad on 30th May, 1996. The detailed investigations into the causes of explosion are being carried out, based on which, remedial measures, both immediate and long term, will be taken for preventing recurrence of such incidents in future.

Waiting List of Telephone in Different Categories in Karnataka

414. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) the number of persons in the waiting list for the telephone connections in different categories in the state of Karnataka as on 30th June, 1996; and

(b) the time by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for the telephone connections in different categories as on 30.6.96 are as follows:—

O.Y.T.	2300
General	19,3000
Total:	19,5300

(b) It is targetted to give 1,33,000 connections during year 1996-97. It is expected that the above waiting list will be cleared during 1997-98.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग सं० 21 को हुई क्षति

415. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1995-96 के दौरान हिमाचल प्रदेश में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग संख्या-21 को भारी वर्षा, बाढ़ एवं भूस्खलन के फलस्वरूप कुल कितनी क्षति पहुंची;

(ख) इस संबंध में हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार ने सड़क-वार कितनी-कितनी धनराशि की मांग की थी; और

(ग) सरकार ने सड़क-वार कितनी-कितनी धनराशि स्वीकृत की और कितनी-कितनी धनराशि खर्च हुई?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी० जी० वेंकटरामन): (क) वर्ष 1995-96 के दौरान हिमाचल प्रदेश में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग सं० 21 का कुल्लू-मनाली खंड टूट गया था तथा अप्रत्याशित भारी वर्षा के कारण अनेक जगह भूस्खलन भी हुए।

(ख) और (ग) मांगी गई निधियों तथा निधियों की उपलब्धता के आधार पर प्रदान की गई संस्वीकृतियों एवं किए गए व्यय के राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग-वार ब्यौरे इस प्रकार हैं:—

(करोड़ रु०)

रा० रा० सं०	मांगी गई निधियां	संस्वीकृत राशि	किया गया व्यय
1—क	0.3	0.23	0.027
20	3.7	0.93	0.52
21	20.00	9.37	4.98
22.	6.00	1.42	1.44
	30.00	11.95	6.967

Devolution of Power to the States

416. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the 'Common Minimum Programmes' Government have any proposal for devolution of powers from the Centre to the States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) The Common Minimum Programme (C.M.P.) of the Government seeks to strengthen the forces of political federalism with a strong Centre, strong States and viable local bodies. The document states that the Government will advance the principles of political, administrative and economic federalism